YEAR WITHOUT A SUMMER.

Story of Snow and Ice in 1816 from an Old Diary.

The year 1816 was known throughout the United States and Europe as the coldest ever experienced by any person then living. There are persons in northern New York who have been in the habit of keeping diaries for years, and it is from pages of an old diary begun in 1810 and kept unbroken until 1840, that the following information regarding this year without a summer has been taken:

January was so mild that most persons allowed their fires to go out and did not burn wood except for cooking. There were a few cold days, but they were very few. Most of the time the air was warm and springlike. February was not cold. Some days were colder than any in January, but the weather was about the same. March from the 1st to the 6th was inclined to be windy. It came in like a small lion, and went out like a very innocent sheep.

April came in warm, but as the days grew longer the air became colder, and by the first of May there was a temperature like that of winter, with plenty of snow and ice. In May the young buds were frozen dead, ice formed half an inch thick on ponds and rivers, corn was killed, and the corn fields were planted again and again, until it become too late to raise a crop. By the last of May in this climate the trees are usually in leaf, and the birds and flowers are plentiful. When the last of May arrived in 1816 everything had been killed by the cold.

June was the coldest month of roses ever experienced in this latitude. Frost and ice were as common as buttercups usually are. Almost everything green was killed; all fruit was destroyed. Snow fell ten inches deep in Vermont. There was a seven-inch snowfall in Main, a three-inch fall in the interior of New York state; the same in Massachusetts. There were only a few moderately warm days. Everybody looked, longed and waited for warm weather, but warm weather did not come. It was also dry; very little rain fell. All summer long the wind blew steadily from the north in blasts laden with snow and ice. Mothers knit socks of double thickness for their children and made thick mittens. Planting and shivering were done together, and the farmers who worked out their taxes on the country roads wore overcoats and mittens. On June 17 there was a heavy fall of snow. A Vermont farmer sent a flock of sheep to pasture on June 16. The morning of the 17th dawned with the thermometer below the freezing point. At about nine o'clock in the morning the owner of the sheep started to look up his flock. Before leaving home he turned to his wife and said jokingly:

"Better start the neighbors soon; it is the middle of June, and I may get lost in the snow."

An hour after he left a terrible snowstorm came up. The snow fell thick and fast, and as there was so much wind, the fleecy masses piled up in great drifts along the windward side of the fences and outbuildings. Night came and the farmer had not been heard of. His wife became frightened and alarmed the neighborhood. All the neighbors joined the searching party. On the third day they found him. He was lying in a hollow on a side hill, with both feet frozen; he was half covered with snow, but alive. Most of the sheep were lost.

A farmer near Tewksbury, Vt., owned a large field of corn. He built fires around the field to keep off the frost. Nearly every night he and his men took turns in keeping up the fires and watching that the corn did not freeze. The farmer was rewarded for his tireless labors by having the only crop of corn in the region.

July came in with ice and snow. On the 4th of July ice as thick as window glass formed through New England, New York, and in some parts of the state of Pennsylvania. Indian corn, which in some parts of the east had struggled through May and June, gave up, froze and died.

To the surprise of everybody August proved the worst month of all. Almost every green thing in this country and Europe was blasted with frost. Snow fell at Barnett, 30 miles from London, England, on August 30. Newspapers received from England stated that 1816 would be remembered by the existing generations as the year in which there was no summer. Very little corn ripened in England. There was great privation, and thousands of persons would have perished in this country had it not been for the abundance of fish and wild game.—N. Y. Sun.

Did Him Good.

"Mister," said the small boy to the druggist, "gimme another bottle o' them patent pills you sold father day before yesterday."

"Are they doing him good?" asked the clerk, looking pleased.

"I d'no whether they're doin' father good or not, but they're doin' me good. They jis' fit my new slung-shot."—Detroit Free Press.

Don't catch your catcher before thay are "catched".

Half a loaf on the bench is better than none at all.

There are no good umpires except dead umpires.

A fly ball in the hand is worth two over the fence.

If wishes were home runs, beggars would root.

PHILADELPHIA'S CITY HALL.

Has Been 24 Years in Construction—Architectural Features.

The municipal buildings of the city of Philadelphia, commonly called "the city hall," are, next to the parliament houses of London, probably the largest single pile of buildings in the world, says City Government. The average dimensions of the parliament houses are 300 feet by 870 feet, giving an average inclosed area of about 251,000 square feet, while those of the city hall are 435 by 435 feet, giving an inclosed area of 189,215 square feet. The city hall tower is, however, the highest structure of the kind in the world, having a total elevation of 537 feet 11½ inches, which is only two feet lower than the Washington monument.

Begun in 1872, it has been 24 years in construction, and up to the present time has cost the city of Philadelphia $20,214,727.98. Work on the tower was only completed last fall and much of the interior work on the upper floor is still to be done and a clock placed in the tower with dials each of a diameter of 20 feet. When the building is completed it is expected that all departments of the city government, included under the heads of legislative, executive and judicial, will be centered therein. There are in all more than 500 rooms, with a total flooring space of 621,438 superficial feet, or 14¼ acres.

There is no small difficulty in deciding under which, if any, of the hitherto established orders or styles of architecture many of the most important structures of the present day can properly be classed. The city hall buildings are of this character. Designed in the spirit of French art, the architecture is essentially modern in its leading features and presents a rich example of what is known by the generic term of the "renaissance," modified and adapted to the varied and extensive requirements of a great American municipality. It consists of a single building under one roof, and is built of white marble. The whole exterior is bold and effective in outline and rich in detail, being elaborated with highly ornate columns, pilasters, pediments, cornices, enriched windows and other adornments. The four fronts are similar in design. In the center of each an entrance pavilion 90 feet in width rises to the height of 202 feet 10½ inches, having receding wings of 128 feet elevation. The fronts terminate at the four corners with towers four feet square and 151 feet high. Archways 18 feet in width by 36 feet in height, opening through each of the four central pavilions, constitute the four principal entrances to the buildings.

BAKED 'POSSUM.

It Came Back to Life and Startled the Old Darky.

A Georgia negro caught two 'possums in a trap. He took them home, put them in a little pen, and gave it out in the village that he would have the fattest one for supper that night.

He lived alone in a little cabin on the outskirts of the town.

Two boys, bent on mischief, overheard him boasting of the 'possum and resolved to play a trick on him.

They secreted themselves near his cabin and saw him kill and cook one of the 'possums. When he had placed it, brown and juicy, on the table, he went out doors to get some wood to replenish the fire, which gave the only light to the room.

Then one of the boys, having previously secured the live 'possum from the pen in the yard, climbed into the window, took the cooked 'possum from the table and left the living one in its stead.

The old negro came in singing with an armful of lightwood knots. He replenished the fire and then sat down to his repast.

In the dim light he reached for that 'possum, and then with a yell he jumped back.

"Lawd, have mussy!" he cried. "I killed 'em, en' I cooked 'em, en' I took 'em up steamin', en dar he sits ez nachul ez life, wid not a hair singe! Oh, Lawd, des he'p me tor git 'way fum dis place, en' I'll preach de Gospel de balance er my days!"

Then, keeping close to the wall, he reached the door and jumped out. Once, before he made for the woods, he looked back, and seeing the 'possum in the same position on the table, he shook his fist in its direction, saying:

"Hay, dar, you gray devil—you! Yo' race ain' no good nohow!"—Atlanta Constitution.

English Church Goers.

The average attendance at places of worship in England and Wales is computed between 10,000,000 and 11,000,000 persons. There is a place of worship for every 500 individuals, taking the country all through, and a stated minister for every 700. About 80,000 sermons are preached every Sunday.

—Gentleman (to little boy)—"I say, sonny, where is the blind man you were leading about yesterday?" Boy—"He went to the art gallery to look at the pictures."

LOCALITY LEAVES ITS MARK.

Peculiarities of Form and Color in Gold.

Most persons who see but little gold except that which has been coined and alloyed suppose that all gold is alike when pure, but the fact is gold has peculiarities of color in different localities in a great auriferous region and in the gold fields of different countries, even when freed from all the baser metals and molded into bars 1,000 fine. An experienced metallurgist is able to distinguish between the slightest shades and tinges of color, and often can tell at once what country a bar, nugget, or package of "dust" comes from; and a veteran assayer in a gold region is nine times out of ten able to tell almost at a glance from what particular district a sample of placer or quartz gold was obtained.

The dust, grain, chispas, nuggets, and masses of gold from different lodes and from placers in different localities also have certain slight peculiarities of form that an experienced mining man or metallurgist long established in a particular locality is able to distinguish, though to the ordinary observer all the samples in the shape of dust or nuggets may look alike. Each gold-bearing quartz vein produces gold, but it does so in a way peculiar to itself in some slight particular, and it persists in the special feature which makes it peculiar.

In California are certain quartz lodes that are spoken of as "specimen ledges," for the reason that they produce gold in some peculiar form, as of a leaf or flower. And a specimen lode persists in producing its peculiar form of specimens, whether of leaf, flower, or crystal. There may be small grains and scales of gold in the same vein of no particular form, but along with this will be found from time to time the peculiar kind of specimens which are the distinguishing feature of the lode.

Even in thte placer gold of California and other regions containing auriferous alluvial deposits are observable such differences of color and form as show it to have come from different localities. The expert buyers of gold dust in California in the early days were able to tell almost at a glance from what mining district, and often from what particular diggings, a lot of gold was obtained.

The gold from the blue gravel of the channels of the "dead rivers" of California—the deep drift diggings—possesses peculiarities that distinguish it from that of placers of more recent origin. It is always so much worn by ages of attrition as to be quite smooth on all sides and a great deal of it of bean-shape; also in size much of it ranges about as do beans from the smallest to the largest varieties. The smaller gold of the ancient rivers is in the form of thick well-rounded flakes or scales and round, heavy grains, while the big nuggets and masses are of various shapes and sizes, but are always worn till smooth as the little golden "beans."

Gold from the lava-capped drift diggings and from the blue leads of the channels of the ancient rivers, wherever found, is called "lead gold." When a prospector hits upon such gold in a ravine that heads on the slope of a big lava-capped gravel mountain, he is pretty sure to trace it up and find in the bedrock the gap through which the "overflow" came from the dead-river channel beneath the mountain, then by means of a tunnel he goes in under the mountain and finds the main lead which was the source of the gold he found in the ravine. This lead gold is sometimes found mingled with the gold of the more recent placers, one of the rivers of the modern system, or a big canyon, having at some point cut through a dead-river channel and carried down and redeposited much of the gold; but wherever it is found it is known to have come from one of the ancient rivers, as it carries the ear marks of the blue gravel.

The gold of Australia is much redder than that of California. Guinea gold is also very red, but the gold of the Urols, Siberia, is the reddest found anywhere in the world, though that of the Amoor placers is a close second. The Mormon ten-dollar pieces, coined from placer gold obtained at Lemhi, had a distinctly green tinge when held in a certain way in the sunlight. Very thin sheets of gold show a decided green color when held up to any strong light. Few people know the color of pure gold, and when they do happen to see it they do not like it. They are accustomed to the alloyed standard gold used in coins and in the manufacture of jewelry. The purest gold coins ever made were the octagonal $50 "slugs," once so common in California, but to the multitude they have rather a cheap, brassy color—not the rich, ripe hue of the $20 pieces.—Salt Lake Tribune.

—Husband (to wife)—"I cannot conceive what is the matter with my watch. I think it must want cleaning." Spoiled Child (breaking in)—"Oh, father, I don't think it needs cleaning. Baby and I had it washing in the basin for ever so long this morning."